

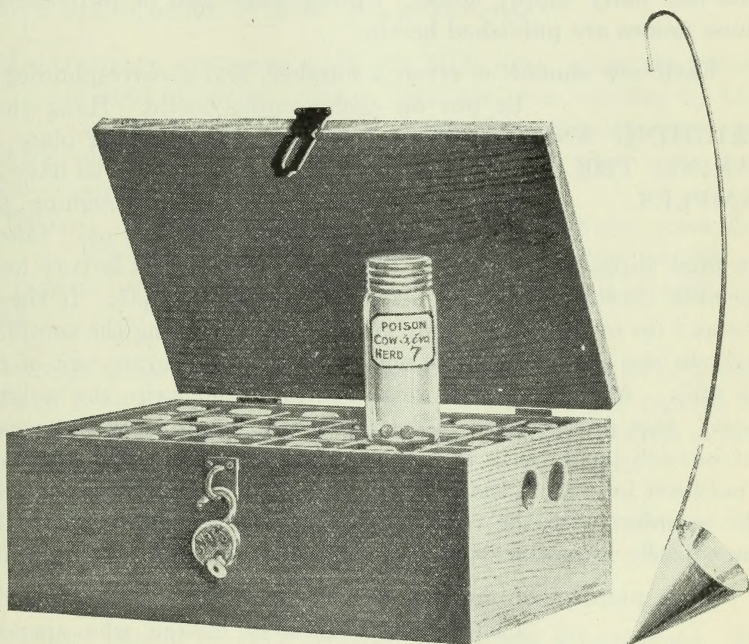
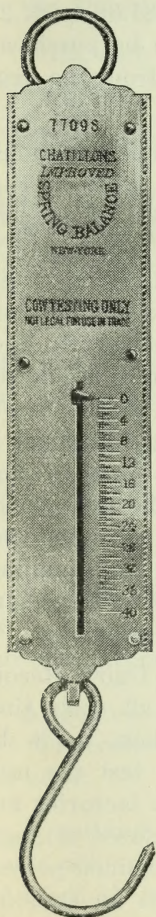
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE

DAIRY AND COLD STORAGE COMMISSIONER.

COW TESTING NOTES.



A spring scale, a sampling dipper and a sample bottle for each cow in the herd is the equipment every dairyman should have. The use of these and a Babcock tester will discover the good and poor cows in the herd.

Cow testing, as carried on by the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner's Branch, is a simple method for finding the number of pounds of milk and butter-fat each cow produces during a milking period. It consists of weighing the milk and taking a sample for testing night and morning on three days each month, preferably at intervals of ten days, as on the 1st, 11th, and 21st. The total of the weights on these three days, multiplied by ten, gives the pounds of milk produced in thirty days, and the pounds of milk multiplied by the test gives the pounds of fat.

Each farmer must provide himself with a suitable scale, a small dipper, a sample bottle for each cow in the herd, and a box for holding the sample bottles. The cost will be about as follows:

EQUIPMENT NECESSARY. 40-pound spring scale, \$1.25; dipper, 10 cents; bottles, 5 to 6 cents each; and a box for the bottles from \$1.00 to \$1.25, according to number of bottles required. The entire outfit can be purchased from any dairy supply house. Spring scales can be purchased from the firms whose names are published herein.

Each cow should be given a number, and a corresponding number should be put on each sample bottle. Hang the scales as conveniently as possible to the milking place, with the record sheet close by. It is a good plan to have a special pail to empty each cow's milk into for weighing, and immediately after pouring the milk into this pail, take a sample with the small dipper and put it in the sample bottle. It is very important to have the milk thoroughly mixed before taking the sample. If the milk is allowed to stand for even three or four minutes before taking the sample, the cream will begin to rise and the sample will not give an accurate test of the butter-fat in the milk. After sampling, weigh the milk and write the weight on the record sheet. One preservative tablet (or two in excessively hot weather) should be put in each bottle with the first sample of milk. If everything is convenient, it need not take more than one minute per cow to do the weighing and sampling. The samples, with the record sheets, should be delivered to the testing point immediately after the sixth sample is taken on the third date for weighing.

In a number of districts the Department has organized Dairy Record Centres, with men in charge who spend all their time encouraging the dairymen to improve their herds by keeping records of individual cows. They test the milk samples at certain points, usually in cheese factories and creameries, and forward the records to Ottawa. In many other places, arrangements are made with the cheese and buttermakers, or some qualified person, to do the testing. The Department makes special arrangements for assisting those who do the testing, particulars of which may be secured by writing to the Dairy Commissioner, Ottawa. The persons who do the testing enter the butter-fat tests on the milk sheets and mail them to the Dairy Commissioner, Ottawa, where the figures are extended and a record of the milk and fat for each cow returned to the dairyman every month. In the month of July, 1915, records were received in the office at Ottawa of 22,669 cows.

The basis of building up a dairy herd is to know what each cow is producing through the milking period. No one can tell how much milk and fat a cow produces unless the milk is weighed and tested. If the owner does not know how much milk and fat each cow produces, how can he tell which are the best cows to raise heifer calves from?

WHY SHOULD DAIRYMEN KEEP MILK RECORDS?

Cow testing not only produces better cows, but more interested and better dairymen.

Weighing, sampling, and marking down the weights of each cow's milk at regular intervals is good sound business and keeps tab on the milkers as well as on the cows.

The best results are secured when record-keeping is made a permanent practice and continued from month to month and from year to year.

With each cow's record before him, the dairyman is able to feed more intelligently. "Meal in proportion to milk" is a good motto.

The figures of a creamery statement at Way's Mills, Que., show that from a herd of twelve cows in 1912, the cash received by the owner was \$297.85. In 1914, from twelve cows he received \$804.48. He discovered the poor cows and got rid of them.

WHAT SOME DAIRYMEN HAVE ACCOMPLISHED BY COW TESTING. At Mallorytown, Ont., a herd of twelve cows has increased from 3,726 pounds of milk per cow in 1909 to 7,388 pounds per cow in 1914; this is an increase of 3,662 pounds of milk per cow, or 98 per cent.

In Hastings county, Ontario, a farmer commenced cow testing in 1912 and found his herd of ten cows averaged 5,780 pounds of milk and 187 pounds of fat. In 1914 his ten cows averaged 7,436 pounds of milk and 254 pounds of fat, an increase of 1,656 pounds of milk and 67 pounds of fat in two years.

At a Nova Scotia creamery there are thirty patrons who took up cow testing five years ago. They were then receiving only about \$30 per cow. Last year their cows averaged almost \$60 each.

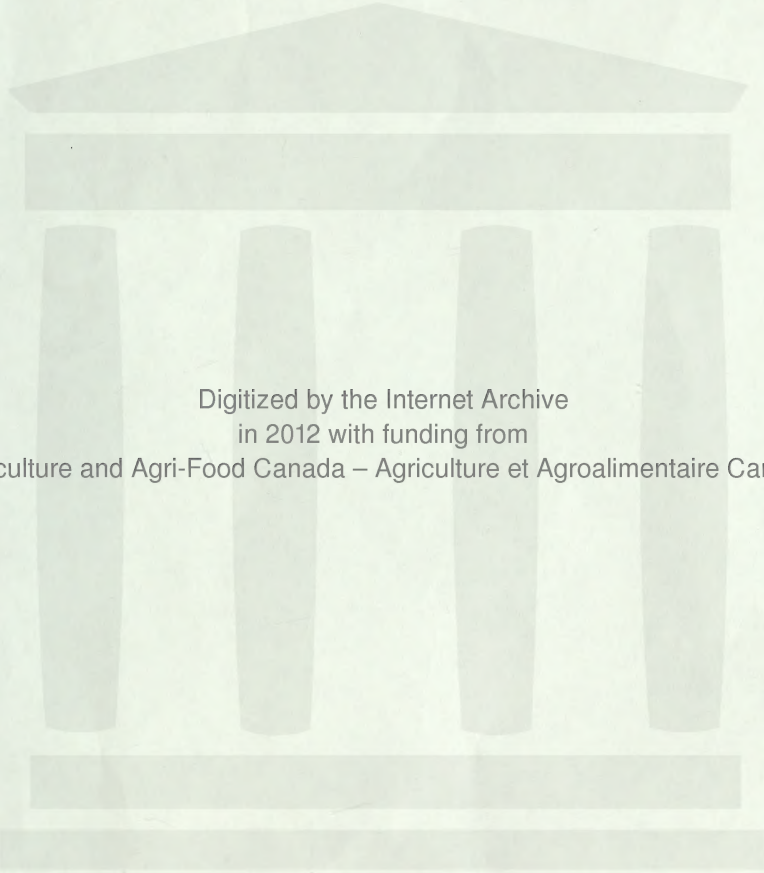
A Quebec creamery patron in 1912 received \$400 from fifteen cows. In 1914 he received \$800 from eleven cows. It paid him well to weed out the poor cows.

It certainly pays to know what each cow is doing. Keeping individual records will tell this. Get rid of the poor cows, carefully feed the good ones, and breed them to a pure-bred sire from large-producing ancestry, the result will certainly be a large-producing and profitable dairy herd.

The following firms are authorized to sell spring scales for cow testing work: G. A. Gillespie, Peterboro, Ont.; W. A. Drummond & Co., 214 King St. East, Toronto, Ont.; C. Richardson & Co., St. Mary's, Ont., Calgary, Alta., Winnipeg, Man., and Vancouver, B.C.; Morgan's Supply House, London, Ont.; C. H.

Slawson & Co., Ingersoll, Ont.; Ballantyne Dairy Supply Co., Stratford, Ont.; D. H. Burrell & Co., Brockville, Ont.; D. Derbyshire & Co., Brockville, Ont.; Lawrence Dairy Supply Co. Ltd., 87 Besserer Street, Ottawa, Ont.; De Laval Dairy Supply Co. Ltd., Peterboro, Ont., 21-23 St. Peter Street, Montreal, Que., Winnipeg, Man., and Vancouver, B.C.; Ellis & Grogan, Calgary, Alta.; W. H. Gunn & Co., Vancouver, B.C.; Dillon & Spillett, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Blank forms for recording both milk and feed, and full information regarding the work of cow testing may be obtained from the Dairy Commissioner, Ottawa.



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